

Homeowner Electrical Permits Information Sheet

Who can perform the electrical work in the home?

Generally the State of Minnesota requires all electrical work to be performed by licensed, bonded and insured electrical contractors and their employees. In specific cases, and within strict limitations, electrical work may be performed by a homeowner.

The Minnesota Electrical Act Subd. 23. Owner. defines owner as the following:

“An owner is an individual who physically performs electrical work on premises the individual owns and actually occupies as a residence or owns and will occupy as a residence upon completion of its construction.”

An owner may not do electrical work in any portion of the building that is rented, leased or occupied by others.

When is an electrical permit required?

An electrical permit and electrical inspections are required for any electrical work associated with new construction, remodeling, replacement or repair of electrical wiring, apparatus or equipment. “Electrical work” means the installation, altering, repairing, planning, or laying out electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment for light, heat, power or other purposes. An electrical permit is required prior to the start of any of the described work above.

Who can apply for an electrical permit?

A licensed, bonded and insured electrical contractor and their employees. When the electrical work is being performed by a homeowner, the homeowner then applies for the permit. In signing and submitting a permit application the homeowner is acknowledging that they own and occupy the home where the work will be performed and they personally and physically will perform all of the electrical work described on the permit application. Homeowners **shall not** obtain permits for another entity who is physically installing the electrical components.

When is electrical work inspected?

Electrical work may require a number of inspections:

1. A “rough-in” inspection is required prior to insulation, sheet-rock, paneling or other similar materials. Except for final connection to switches, receptacles, and lighting fixtures, all ground and other wires inboxes must be spliced and “pigtailed” prior to the rough-in. Do not install devices such as receptacles or switches prior to the rough-in inspection being approved. Underground wiring must be inspected before the trench is backfilled. If wiring is concealed prior to the rough-in it is required by code that those materials be removed to make the necessary inspection.
2. A final inspection is required when the permitted electrical work is complete and ready to use.

This information is a guide to the most common questions. It is not intended, nor shall it be considered, a complete set of requirements.